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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: Patent Application

SN: 09/747,000

Filed: 12-21-2000

By: John D. Watts

For: Threaded Pipe Connection and Method

Art Unit: 3679

Examiner: Trinh T. Nguyen

Primary Examiner: Gregory M. Vidovich

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED 10-07-2002

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

sent fax (703) 872-9326 on Dec 13, 2002

In the claims, please rewrite as follows:

Claim 1. A method for [manufacturing the] forming end-lengths of plain-end pipe joints having an inner pipe diameter and an outer pipe diameter so as to provide desired final dimensions sufficient to increase the critical area at the end of thread engagement for an integral threaded connection for like joints that may be as strong selectively, as the pipe's mechanical and fluid pressure ratings] strength, comprising: machining a predetermined end-length of the pipe joint so as to effect a desired first configuration; swaging the first configuration to have a desired inner second configuration and [swaging the pipe wall opposite the second configuration to] a desired outer third configuration; and then machining the end-length as necessary to effect the desired final dimensions for the end-length.

Claim 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising: [manufacturing] forming a box by cutting a counterbore of predetermined length so as to provide a desired inner first configuration within the end-length; swaging outwardly, the first configuration [in] to have a desired inner second configuration and [the outer pipe wall opposite the second configuration into] a desired outer third configuration having an outer[most] diameter larger in dimension than the original pipe outer[most] diameter; and then machining the end-length to effect the desired final box dimensions such that the box thread maximum diameter exceeds the pipe outer diameter.

Claim 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising: [manufacturing] forming a pin by machining a predetermined end-length of the [outer wall of the] pipe [so as] to [provide] a desired outer first configuration; swaging inwardly, the first configuration [in] to have a desired outer second configuration and [the pipe bore opposite the second configuration into] a desired inner third configuration having an inner[most] diameter of smaller dimension than the [original] pipe inner [most] diameter; and then machining the end-length to the desired final pin dimensions such that the pin thread minimum diameter is less than the pipe inner diameter.

REMARKS:

Claims 1-3, 6-13, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Applicant has re-written claims 1-3 above, and together with the definitions of "end-length" and "pipe end" being pointed out on page 2 line 32 of the specification, applicant believes that they are now definite. Claim 10 is made definite by the definition of "end-length" without re-write.

Claims 1, 3, 10-13, and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Reed (US 6,024,646). At no place in his specification or claims does Reed disclose or suggest, swaging

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Official

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